

**EPI Update for Friday, July 6, 2007
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **July is National Fireworks Safety Month**
- **Highlights from "Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings 2007"**
- **Pertussis (whooping cough) serologic testing**
- **The scoop on (raccoon) poop**
- **IDPH newsletter available**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

July is National Fireworks Safety Month

Enjoy celebrating the heritage of our great country with fireworks, but BE SAFE! The National Council on Fireworks Safety urges all of us to follow these safety tips:

- **Only use fireworks outdoors and obey all local laws regarding the use of fireworks.**
- **Children under age 16 should only use fireworks with adult supervision.**
- **Always have a bucket of water, or water hose, nearby.**
- **Alcohol and fireworks do not mix!**
- **Parents should pay special attention to children using sparkers. Sparklers reach temperatures up to 1800 degrees Fahrenheit. Children should not touch the lit portion of sparklers, throw them or play games with them.**

For more information, visit the National Council on Fireworks Safety Web site at www.fireworksafety.com/home.htm.

"Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings 2007"

The new "Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings 2007" is now available. Next week, some of the issues will be listed in this update. An example of issues this guideline addresses is:

There is increasing evidence that the level of bedside nurse-staffing influences the quality of patient care. In most cases, when staffing improves as part of a

comprehensive control intervention, the outbreak ends or the hospital acquired infection rate declines.

For the complete document, refer to
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/guidelines/Isolation2007.pdf.

Pertussis (whooping cough) serologic testing

The IDPH Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) receives laboratory reports of antibody testing (IgM, IgA) for *Bordetella pertussis* (whooping cough). However, serum antibody testing is not appropriate for use in diagnosing acute, suspected cases of *Bordetella pertussis*. Serologic assays lack standardization and none of the serologic assays available in the U.S. are licensed by the Food and Drug Administration for routine diagnostic use.

The pertussis diagnostic tests, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention endorse, are culture and PCR. In Iowa, PCR testing should be used for laboratory confirmation of disease. Any person presenting with symptoms consistent with pertussis should be tested using a nasopharyngeal swab or aspirate and then sending the specimen for PCR testing. Clinicians should make a diagnosis on the basis of lab tests in conjunction with epidemiologic and clinical findings such as persistent cough, whoop or post-tussive vomiting.

Nasopharyngeal swab testing kits, consisting of slides, media and swabs in mailing containers, can be ordered from the University Hygienic Laboratory at (319) 335-4500.

For more information on pertussis testing, visit
<http://www.uhl.uiowa.edu/services/diseases/respiratory/pertussisfaq.pdf>

For more information on the epidemiology and treatment of pertussis, visit
www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/epi_manual/pertussis.pdf.

The scoop on (raccoon) poop

CADE received a call from a concerned mother whose child accidentally ingested raccoon stool. One of the diseases associated with exposure to raccoon feces is *Baylisascaris procyonis*. This is a parasite that is excreted by raccoons and over 50 other animals and birds. This parasite can cause damage to major organs including the liver, heart, lungs, brain and eyes in humans.

While there have been no reported cases in Iowa, there have been 25 U.S. cases reported. Laboratory diagnosis is made by detecting larvae in tissue specimens and can be made by ocular examination. The University Hygienic Laboratory can identify *Baylisascaris*. There is no proven therapy, but albendazole and corticosteroids have been used.

Gloves should always be worn when handling feces from animals. Hands should be washed immediately after removing gloves and after touching animal feces if gloves are not worn.

For more information, visit www.dpd.cdc.gov/dpdx/HTML/Baylisascariasis.htm

IDPH newsletter available

The July 2007 issue of the Iowa Health Focus newsletter, published by the Iowa Department of Public Health, is now available online at www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/focus.asp.

Among the stories you'll find are:

- Unique opportunities, perks available at Barn Raising VI
- Grant to help reduce youth suicide in Iowa
- Immunization conference hosts national, state experts
- New state vet helps redefine position
- Iowa gets straight A's in health care
- Mixing household chemicals dangerous

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Epi-Ready training to be held in Ankeny, IA on September 11-12

Epi-Ready Team Training will be held in Ankeny at the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) on September 11-12, from 8:00 am-5:00 pm. Applications are due by August 17. For more information or to apply to attend this program, go to

www.neha.org/research/food_safety.html#team_train2.

Barn Raising early bird deadline, July 13

If you haven't already registered for the 2007 Governor's Conference on Public Health, Barn Raising VI, please do so soon. The deadline for the reduced registration fee of \$50 for this two-day conference is next Friday, July 13th. (Registration costs \$95 after this date.) To register online, click [here](#) or visit www.trainingresources.org. Click [here](#) to view the brochure, which includes a faxable registration form.

Have a healthy and happy week and a great Fourth of July!

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